

Christine Joyce

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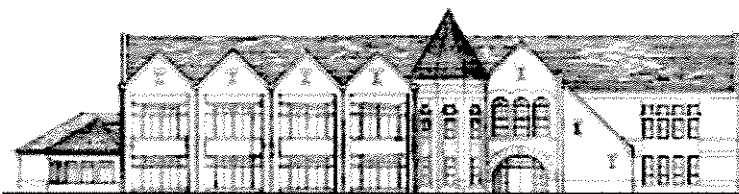
From: Dore' Hunter
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2005 10:39 AM
To: Manager Department; Frank Joyner
Subject: Re: Request for Georgia Whitney Fund use for Creeley Award readingevent

Don,

Please put this request for use of the Georgia Whitney Fund on the Consent Agenda for the 28 February BOS meeting.

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Dore' Hunter from Fort Myers, FL
Selectman, Town of Acton, MA
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Acton Memorial Library

486 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-9641/9642 TDD 635-0072

February 18, 2005

Mr. F. Doré Hunter, Chairman
Town of Acton Board of Selectmen
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Attachments: 1. Biography of C. D. Wright
2. 2005 Creeley Award Poetry Reading Expenses and Fund Raising Budget
3. Approval of expenditure from the Georgia Whitney Fund

Dear Doré,


You signed the proclamation issued by the Board of Selectmen designating April 11, 2001 as "Robert Creeley Day," initiating a series of readings bringing outstanding poets to Acton to celebrate National Poetry Month. The fifth annual Robert Creeley Award reading is now scheduled for May 5. Again an outstanding poet, C. D. Wright, (a brief biography is attached) has agreed to come to Acton to accept the award and read from her works. Robert Creeley will also return to present the award.

The estimated expenses this year are about the same as last year, at \$3,250 (an itemized list is attached). As in past years, we are asking for contributions from the Friends of the Acton Libraries, the AML Foundation and Community Education. Last year we also requested and received funding from the Georgia Whitney Fund, which was established to support just such events, and want to do so again this year.

The Town Finance department has said that this fund now has approximately \$21,600 of accumulated earnings, which can be used to fund cultural events. We would like to ask the Advisory Board of this fund, viz., the Board of Selectmen, Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of the high school, to approve an expenditure of \$1,750 to be used in support of the 2005 Creeley Award event.

The poetry series continues to be successful, with the Creeley Award reading being among the foremost cultural events in the area. Each year it has been attended by more than 200 people, and each year the award-winning poet has spent time in the High School, providing an opportunity for some of Acton's students to meet and hear a poet of great renown. I hope you will agree that the event is of great value to the schools and the community and will approve the requested expenditure from the Georgia Whitney Fund.

Sincerely,


Frank Joyner, Trustee
Acton Memorial Library

Approval of Expenditure from Georgia E. Whitney Fund

The will which established the Georgia E. Whitney Fund, named an advisory board consisting of the members of the Board of Selectmen, the Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of the high school. This board is to review and consider requests for expenditures from the fund for events of a cultural and educational nature for the benefit of the citizens of Acton and the students of the Acton schools.

The undersigned have reviewed such a request for \$1,750 to be expended to support the 2005 Robert Creeley Day poetry reading to be held in the Acton Town Hall, room 204, on May 5, 2005, and approve this request.

F. Doré Hunter, Chairman
Town of Acton Board of Selectmen

William Ryan, Superintendent
Acton & Acton-Boxborough Schools

Steven Donovan, Principal
Acton-Boxborough High School

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[C.D. Wright](#)

C.D. Wright

Poet

Professor of English

Brown University

Providence, Rhode Island

Age: 55



C.D. Wright is an accomplished writer, the author of ten volumes of poetry, and an editor for Lost Roads Publishers. No single description adequately captures Wright's work; she is an experimental writer, a Southern writer, and a socially committed writer, yet she continuously reinvents herself with each new volume. The trajectory and growth of her achievement as a poet can be seen in *Steal Away* (2001), a selection of her verse over the last twenty years. In this volume, Wright experiments with stanza, syntax, and

line and writes in a variety of styles – prose poems, short lyrics, and prose narratives. The poems themselves move from the personal to those from *One Big Self* (2003), where the personae originate from Wright's conversations with prisoners in the Louisiana state prison system. Despite her frequent use of experimental structures, her mode of expression is clear and accessible, and her poetry is rooted in the landscape and people of her childhood in Arkansas, often engaging issues of social importance. Wright is a prolific poet whose wide-ranging oeuvre includes collaborative projects with the photographer Deborah Luster and the composition and publication of two state literary maps: one of her native state of Arkansas, the other of her adopted state, Rhode Island, where she teaches and resides.

C.D. Wright received a B.A. (1971) from the University of Memphis and an M.F.A. (1976) from the University of Arkansas. Wright was a lecturer in poetry (1979-1981) at San Francisco State University prior to joining the faculty of Brown University in 1983. She has held visiting faculty positions at the Burren School of Art, Ireland (1996), and the University of Iowa (1997), and the University of Cincinnati (2004); she is currently the Israel J. Kapstein Professor of English at Brown. Her many published works include *Further Adventures with You* (1986), *Just Whistle* (1993), and *Deepstep Come Shining* (1998), and her poems have appeared in numerous anthologies. Wright is a contributor of poetry, essays, and reviews to such publications as *Ploughshares* and *The New Yorker*.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

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**2005 Creeley Award Poetry Reading
Estimated Expenses and Fund Raising Budget**

Event Costs:

Honorarium	\$2,000	
Creeley Award	500	(used by award recipient to select books for the library)
Lodging for C. D. Wright	200	
Lodging for Robert Creeley	200	
Publicity	25	
Chair Rental	225	
Food, paper goods, etc.	100	
Total	\$3,250	

Fund Raising Plan:

Possible Resources:	2004 Contribution	2005 Request
AML Foundation	\$ 500	\$ 500
Friends of the Acton Libraries	350*	500*
Community Education	500	500
Acton/Boxborough Cultural Council	300	
Georgia Whitney Fund	1,500	1,750
Total	\$3,150	\$3,250

* Friends of the Acton Libraries have also contributed to the fall poetry reading.